

Senate Resolution 166

By: Senators Rogers of the 21st, Johnson of the 1st, Stephens of the 27th, Seabaugh of the 28th and Chance of the 16th

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to general bills; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that it is the sense of the Senate that any general bill providing for the apportionment of congressional districts shall be in accordance with the following:

(1) All districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended;

(2) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. Districts that connect on a single point are not contiguous;

(3) All districts shall be compact in form. Bizarre shapes shall be avoided;

(4) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with federal standards. A community of interest may be defined by a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, economic, social, and cultural factors, government services, and location;

(5) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is practicable to comply with the other requirements herein; and

(6) No district shall be established with the intent or effect of diluting the voting strength of any person, group of persons, or members of any political party. Data reflecting past partisan voting behavior shall not be solely considered.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that none of the criteria specified herein shall be afforded greater weight than any other criteria. Minor deviations from one or more of such criteria shall be permitted if necessary to conform a plan to the other criteria specified herein. The requirements, however, of the United States Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall be given priority should those requirements conflict with any other criteria.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that any general bill
2 providing for the apportionment of representative districts, senatorial districts, or both, shall
3 be in accordance with the following:

4 (1) All districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the federal Voting
5 Rights Act of 1965, as amended;

6 (2) All districts in an apportionment plan for the Senate or House of Representatives
7 shall have a deviation of not more than plus or minus 2.5 percent from the ideal
8 population size to ensure that each person to be elected under such plan represents, as
9 nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants of the state;

10 (3) All districts shall be composed of contiguous territory. Districts that connect on a
11 single point are not contiguous;

12 (4) All districts shall be compact in form. Bizarre shapes shall be avoided;

13 (5) No district shall divide a community of interest unless necessary to comply with
14 federal standards. A community of interest may be defined by a variety of factors,
15 including, but not limited to, economic, social, and cultural factors, government services,
16 and location;

17 (6) Districts shall divide as few counties and recognized political boundaries as is
18 practicable to comply with the other requirements herein;

19 (7) No district shall be established with the intent or effect of diluting the voting strength
20 of any person, group of persons, or members of any political party. Data reflecting past
21 partisan voting behavior shall not be solely considered; and

22 (8) Single-member districts shall be used in all cases and multimember districts shall be
23 prohibited.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the sense of the Senate that none of the criteria
25 specified herein shall be afforded greater weight than any other criteria. Minor deviations
26 from one or more of such criteria shall be permitted if necessary to conform a plan to the
27 other criteria specified herein. The requirements, however, of the United States Constitution
28 and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, shall be given priority should those
29 requirements conflict with any other criteria.